



## **Catawba County Public Health**

[www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth)

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### **STATE WORKING WITH LOCAL PROVIDERS TO OFFER FREE TDAP VACCINE**

HICKORY, NC – Due to an increase in pertussis (whooping cough) across North Carolina, state health officials are encouraging everyone to get a Tdap vaccination. As a result, health care providers participating in the North Carolina Immunizations Program (NCIP), including Catawba County Public Health, have been authorized to provide free Tdap vaccine.

All Catawba County residents are eligible to receive the free Tdap vaccine regardless of age or insurance status. The vaccine is specifically recommended for the following groups as they may have a higher risk for contracting pertussis disease:

- Individuals in contact with infants younger than 12 months, which may include pregnant women, parents, siblings, and child-care providers
- Health care professionals
- Anyone with a pre-existing, chronic, respiratory disease (such as asthma) and their close contacts
- Any child 18 or younger who has not previously received the Tdap vaccine

Tdap protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Pertussis can easily spread from person to person when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. A person can spread the disease while he or she has cold-like symptoms and for about two weeks after coughing starts. The best method of prevention is getting vaccinated.

Individuals are encouraged to call their regular health care provider or Catawba County Public Health for questions or more information. Appointments to receive the vaccine are available at Catawba County Public Health and can be made by calling (828) 695-5800.

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***“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”***

